

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please insert the following text (A) through (K):

(A) Please substitute the original title with the following replacement title at Page 1, line 1 of the Application-as-filed:

Use of sweetener acids for the microbiological ~~stabilisation~~ stabilization of foodstuffs, cosmetic products, consumer goods and pharmaceutical products

(B) Please insert the following headings and paragraph at Page 1, line 4 of the Application-as-filed, immediately preceeding the first full paragraph:

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is being filed under Rule 1.371 as a National Stage Application of International Application No. PCT/ EP2003/012567 filed November 11, 2003, which claims priority to parent German Patent Application Nos. 102 53 773.9 filed November 19, 2002 and 103 30 026.0 filed July 3, 2003. The parent applications, German Patent Application No. 102 53 773.9 and German Patent Application No. 103 30 026.0, and corresponding international application are all hereby incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

(C) Please insert the following heading at Page 1, line 15 of the Application-as-filed, immediately preceeding the second full paragraph:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(D) Please insert the following heading on Page 4, line 22 of the Application-as-filed, immediately preceeding the last full paragraph:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

(E) Please insert the following headings and text at Page 5, line 6 of the Application-as-filed, immediately preceeding the first full paragraph:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a graphical illustration of a pairwise comparison test of the acid taste of acesulfamic acid versus citric acid;

Figure 2 is a graphical illustration of a pairwise comparison test of the acid taste of cyclamic acid versus citric acid;

Figure 3 is a graphical illustration of a pairwise comparison test of the acid taste of saccharin acid versus citric acid; and

Figure 4 is a graphical illustration of a pairwise comparison test of the acid taste of acesulfamic acid versus acetic acid.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

(F) Please substitute the following replacement paragraph for the paragraph beginning at Page 6, line 8 of the Application-as-filed, immediately following the first partial paragraph:

Acesulfamic acid is obtained, for example, by what is termed the SO<sub>3</sub> method, as described in EP-A-0 155 634, (and its United States equivalent, US Patent No. 4,607,100), ~~an~~ by which acesulfame-K is also produced. The acid is obtained after ring closure using SO<sub>3</sub>, before neutralization using potassium hydroxide. However, acesulfamic acid can also be produced from the commercially available acesulfame-K by acidification, for example using sulfuric acid. Acesulfamic acid is then extracted from the acidic solution by an organic solvent such as ethyl acetate and is then isolated, for example by evaporating off the solvent.

(G) Please substitute the following replacement text for the text beginning on Page 10, line 6 of the Application-as-filed

A Pairwise pairwise comparison test was performed with the question: Which sample is the more acid [[:]] ? The pairwise comparison was [[ (]]forced choice, n = 13 [[:]]].

[[ **Result:** ]]

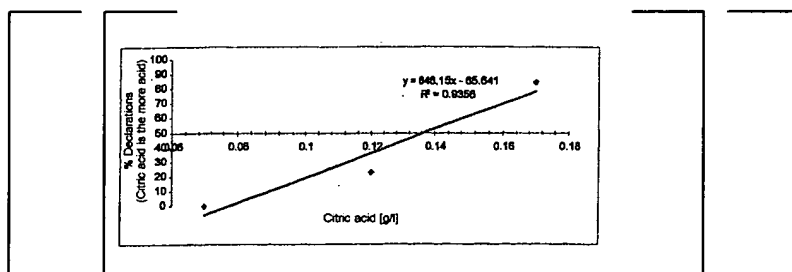


Figure 1[[:]] is a graphical illustration of the pairwise ~~Pairwise~~ comparison test for determining the identical acid taste of acesulfamic acid and citric acid.

(H) Please substitute the following replacement text for the text beginning on Page 12, line 25 of the Application-as-filed

A ~~Pairwise~~ pairwise comparison test was performed with the question: Which sample is the more acid [[:]] ? The pairwise comparison was [[ ( )]forced choice, n = 15 [[D]].

[[ Result: ]]

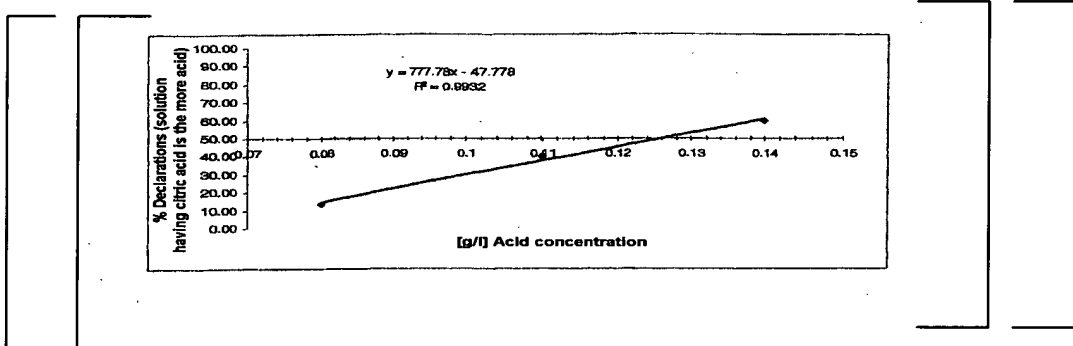


Figure 2[[:]] is a graphical illustration of the pairwise ~~Pairwise~~ comparison test for determining the identical acid taste of cyclamic acid and citric acid.

(I) Please substitute the following replacement text for the text beginning on Page 15, line 12 of the Application-as-filed

A Pairwise pairwise comparison test was performed with the question: Which sample is the more acid? The pairwise comparison was [[ ( )]forced choice, n = 15 [D]].

[[ **Result:** ]]

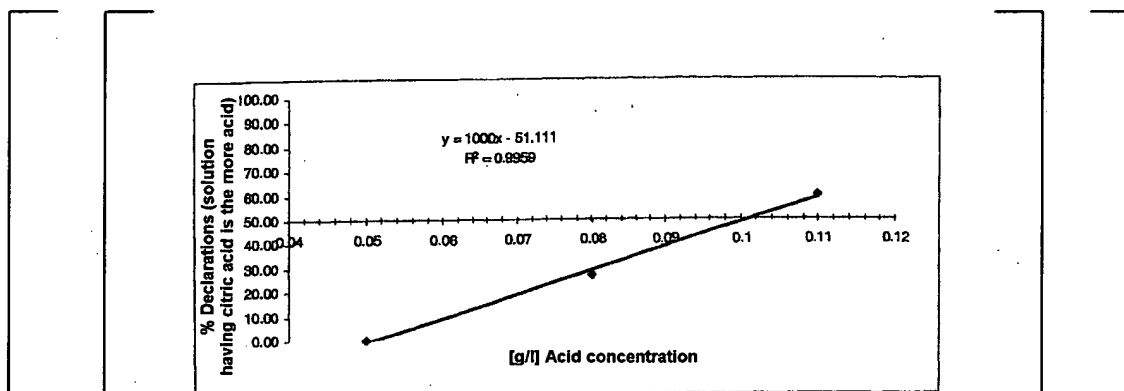


Figure 3[[(:)] is a graphical illustration of the pairwise Pairwise comparison test for determining the identical acid taste of saccharin acid and citric acid.

(J) Please substitute the following replacement text for the text beginning on Page 18, line 9 of the Application-as-filed

A Pairwise pairwise comparison test was performed with the question: Which sample is the more acidic? The pairwise comparison was [[ ( )]forced choice, n = 14 [D]].

[[ **Result:** ]]

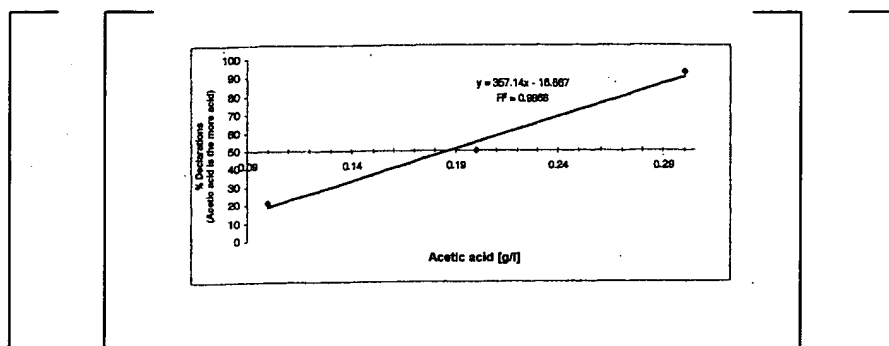


Figure 4 is a graphical illustration of the pairwise comparison test for determining the identical acid taste of acesulfamic acid and acetic acid.